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Bush Plans U.S. Return On Sunday

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PEKING, Tuesday, Dec. 2

—George Bush, head of the U.S. Liaison Mission to the Peoples Republic of China, will return to the United States this Sunday, he said today.

Bush, nominated by President Ford to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency, faces a potential confirmation fight launched by Democratic senators who believe it is unwise to put someone closely linked to partisan politics in charge of the CIA.

Bush, a former congressman and chairman of the Republican National Committee, has been chief of the liaison office here since September 1974.

In a brief conversation at the Peking airport where he was waiting for the President's arrival Monday, Bush declined to discuss either his confirmation prospects or his political plans. He said it would not be appropriate for him to do this before Senate hearings on his nomination.

However, it is believed that Bush might be willing to rule himself out of political activity in 1976 if the Senate insists upon this as a ground for confirmation. He is considered unwilling to promise that he will not return to partisan politics at all.

President Ford has declined to rule out Bush as a possible vice presidential choice in 1976.